

# ***FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** May 14, 2015

**Agenda Item:** 2015 Fall Upland Game Bird Quotas and Limits

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Proposed

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 30 minutes

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## **Background**

Upland game bird season dates for 2015 were approved in February. Other season elements include bag and possession limits, and permit quotas for turkeys. The following changes are proposed for the 2015 upland game bird season.

**Region 1:** In December 2013 Region 1 originally proposed that the fall bag limit be increased to two either-sex turkeys with the intent that the yearly bag limit would likewise be increased to three. However, this did not get properly reflected in the regulations. FWP seeks a clarification so that the fall regulations will read:

**Bag Limit:** 2 wild turkey, either-sex in the fall. A separate license is required for each turkey. However, the total bag limit of the spring and fall seasons combined cannot exceed three turkeys per hunter. For example, if you kill two turkeys in the spring, you can only take one in the fall. You cannot kill three turkeys in the spring nor can you kill three turkeys in the fall season. The combination of up to three turkeys per year may come from the spring and fall seasons as described below. However, for any combination of three turkeys taken during the spring and fall seasons combined, at least one must be taken in Region 1.

- **Spring Season** - A hunter may harvest up to 2 male turkeys in the spring as long as at least one of them is harvested in Administrative Region 7.
- **Fall Season** – A hunter may harvest up to 2 either-sex turkeys in the fall as long as at least one of them is harvested in Administrative Regions 1 or 7. Any hunter taking a second turkey in the fall and hunting in Administrative Region 1 must take a hen turkey.

**Region 3:** Increase the HD 395 fall permit quota from 20 general and two youth-only permits to 50 general and 10 youth-only.

Further clarification on the above proposals is in the justification. No other changes are proposed for other upland game bird bag, possession limits and permit quotas.

## **Public Involvement Process & Results**

If approved, public comment on the proposal will run through 5 p.m., Monday, June 29.

## **Alternatives and Analysis**

This proposal is based upon field observations and regional input and is consistent with statewide upland game bird management.

## **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

FWP recommends adopting the proposed 2015 bag and possession limits and permit quota changes. All other upland game bird regulations will remain unchanged from 2014. Season dates were previously set by the Commission in February 2015.

## **Proposed Motion**

I move that the Fish & Wildlife Commission approve for public comment the proposed 2015 upland game bird bag and possession limits and permit quotas as presented by FWP.